

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference P21631WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/02850	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F16H59/02		
Applicant EATON CORPORATION et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 02.02.2004	Date of completion of this report 22.10.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Martinvalet, C-I Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8185



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02850

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-3, 6-12 as originally filed
4, 5 received on 05.10.2004 with letter of 04.10.2004

Claims, Numbers

1-24 received on 05.10.2004 with letter of 04.10.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02850

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02850

Re Item: V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty and inventive step; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-4 912 997 (MALCOLM ROBERT G ET AL) 3 April 1990

Independent Claim 1

The present application meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 is regarded as being the most relevant state of the art discloses: a shift lever mechanism comprising a housing, a lever (22), pivoting means (26,28,40) adapted to facilitate pivoting of the lever into a plurality of positions, and lever position indication means (60,74) operable to indicate disposal of the lever in one or more predetermined positions, wherein the pivoting means (26,28,40) comprises a spherical element (26) and the lever position indication means comprises transducer means (140,142) disposed adjacent the spherical element to be co-operable with the actuation means (60,74) such that upon positioning of the lever in each predetermined position, the actuation means actuates the transducer means to indicate to a user disposal of the lever in said each predetermined position.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known shift lever mechanism in that at least part of the actuation means is disposed on the spherical element.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing a shift lever mechanism which is compact.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: the prior art documents do not suggest the differencing features.

Dependent claims 2-24

Claims 2-24 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.